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**United States Patent** [19]

Kotsuki et al.

[11] **Patent Number:** 6,020,974[45] **Date of Patent:** Feb. 1, 2000[54] **COMMUNICATING APPARATUS**[75] Inventors: **Kunio Kotsuki; Tokio Imahayashi;**  
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379 93 09[58] **Field of Search** ..... 358 403, 400,  
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9-139792 5/1997 Japan ..... H04N 1.00*Primary Examiner*—Jerome Grant, II*Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Venable, Robert J. Frank, Robert  
Kinberg[57] **ABSTRACT**

In a communicating apparatus, telephone or directory application software can be automatically initiated in a personal computer. An off-hook detecting unit of the apparatus continuously makes a check to determine whether or not an external telephone is set to an off-hook state. If this is the case, the off-hook detecting unit sends off-hook information via a serial interface to the computer. An application initiation request unit of the computer monitors the serial interface. Having recognized an off-hook state of telephone in accordance with the off-hook information, the request unit automatically initiates the directory application software.

**6 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets**